

REMARKS

The Office Action dated 10/01/02 and the cited references have been carefully considered.

Objections to drawings are noted and will be corrected after allowance.

Claims **1-4**, and **13** were rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite, for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter. The Honorable Examiner cited specific phrases in claims **1-4**, and **13** which were unsuitable in rendering the claims as decisive and concise under MPEP 2173.05(d). Claims **1-4**, and **13** have herein been removed from the pending application, and new claims substituted with indefinite language removed.

Claims **1-9** were rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Thorstens et al. (US 6,179,468). The Examiner refers to figures 1,2,11 and 13 of Thorstens' 468 as depicting the joint structure of the Present Invention. The author of the Present Invention respectfully submits that though similarities appear in Thorstens' 468, this is an area of crowded art, and as such the intent of the author has lead to subtle but distinguishing differences from prior art.

With regard to fabrication, the Present Invention requires only tools and materials which are common to a small wood shop, unlike all prior art references. The Present Invention negates the requirement that the bearing shaft backing be form fit to the bearing shaft housing. The ability to render the shape of the housing cavity irrelevant distinguishes the Present Invention from all prior art teachings. This subtle difference over prior art makes the Present Invention easily attainable for a great majority of small shops, small business people, and artisans.

Thorstens et al. (US 6,179,468) teaches a largely circular recess in housing **36**, unlike the present invention, further Thorstens' 468, intends to teach a brake system for the slide geometry described therein.

Claims **10-12** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorstens et al. (US 6,179,468) in view of Morton (US 3,464,882). The author of the present invention respectfully submits that while Morton '882, teaches adhesively attaching low friction bearing substances to a bearing block **11**, Morton does not teach alternative geometry for the housing of said bearing block, in fact the bearing block housing is not depicted in Morton '882.

Claims **13** was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorstens et al. (US 6,179,468) in view of Morton (US 3,464,882, and further in view of Bullard (US 2,654,640). The present applicant respectfully argues that none of the cited prior art references teach that a bearing sleeve may be housed in a geometrically nonconforming recess. In Bullard '640 a mirror image construction is taught within block **10**, however, this lacks the variation presented in claim **13** of the Present Invention in that Bullard the sleeve is held in like manner in both instances, block **10** and **12**, reciprocate as first and third objects of the articulated joint (Way). The present invention distinguishes itself as not obvious from Bullard, Morton, Thorstens, in teaching that both the first and third objects of the articulated joinery may contain nonconforming recesses for sleeve and dowel, and still function properly, Bullard does not teach this novel aspect. Further claim **13** of the present invention teaches that removing part **15** from Bullard is possible, which should prove highly desirable in actual fabrication for reasons of cost and alignment. The applicant respectfully submits that the Present Invention is novel with regard to prior art, and that the Present Invention represents an unobvious development in this crowded field of art.

The applicant respectfully removes Claims **1-13** from the pending application and has substituted new claims **14-23** to better elucidate the present invention as novel and unobvious over all prior art.

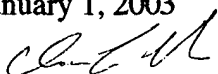
All the claims presently in the application are believed to be allowable.

If, for any reason the claims of this application are not believed to be in full condition for allowance, the applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03(d) in order that this application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings

Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

January 1, 2003



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GP 3677

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Mailed January 1, 2003

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

Please file the following enclosed patent application papers

Applicant: Clare L. Hoke Jr.

Title: **Novel Articulated and or Rigid Joinery**

For: Serial No.: 09/918,761

Examiner: Brittain, James R

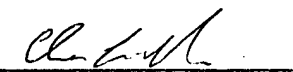
Art Unit: 3677

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Response to Office Action dated 10/1/02: nr. of sheets 7

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Signed: 

Clare L. Hoke Jr

Upland CA.